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Letter dated 24 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In many of its letters addressed to you the Government of Iraq has stressed that the practice of placing contracts on hold has had an adverse impact on the sound implementation of the memorandum of understanding of 20 May 1996 between Iraq and the United Nations Secretariat.

Since the memorandum of understanding first entered into force and the oil-for-food programme commenced, the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom, through their representatives in the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990), have persistently obstructed the delivery of humanitarian goods to Iraq by placing contracts on hold on the flimsiest of grounds and pretexts. This is evident from the considerable increase in the number of contracts placed on hold by the representatives of these two countries in the Committee on the grounds that they are for dual-use items. On some occasions, the representatives of these two countries also place contracts on hold that are for the same humanitarian items for which they had approved similar contracts during previous phases. This proves conclusively that the objective of the representatives of these two countries in pursuing this policy is to obstruct the delivery of humanitarian goods to Iraq in order to inflict further harm on its people.

We should like in this connection to cite some examples of the above phenomenon. The United States representative in the Committee has placed a hold on contracts 801266 and 80264, which were concluded by the Ministry of Health during phase VIII for the supply of insecticides to be used for the purpose of disease vector control. The flimsy argument adduced by the United States representative in placing these two contracts on hold was that they are for dual-use items, while the Committee had in fact approved similar contracts for the same insecticides during phase VI under the memorandum of understanding. A second example is that the United States representative placed a hold on contract 801319 on the grounds that the items ordered are included in the list approved by the Security Council in its resolution 1051 (1966) and did so despite the assurances of the Committee's experts that they are not in fact included in the list.

The policy pursued by the United States and British representatives in the Committee clearly indicates enmity towards Iraq and the abandonment of the most elementary humanitarian norms. Even worse, the United States and the United Kingdom are trying to confer on this policy a spurious legitimacy by incorporating it in their scheme to increase restrictions and expand the lists in accordance with

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which contracts are scrutinized. We therefore request you to intervene with a view to halting practices by the United States and the United Kingdom that are in flagrant violation of the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the United Nations and have the basic purpose of obstructing the delivery of humanitarian goods and of inflicting further harm on its people and exacerbating its human suffering.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative